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ELIAS B. LANDAU, ESQUIRE

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(610) 664-5306

**Attorney for Plaintiff** 

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ALEXANDER H. F. EMMERT

**CIVIL ACTION** 

504 Valley Park Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

**Plaintiff** 

NO.

MATTHEW A. BASHAM 273 Mike Drive

**Elkton, MD 21921** 

Defendant

### **CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT**

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert, currently resides at 504 Valley Park Road, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19481.
- 2. Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, is a citizen of the State of Maryland and currently resides at 273 Mike Drive, Elkton, MD 21921.
- 3. The amount in controversy is in excess of \$75,000.00 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars).

### **JURISDICTION**

4. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference as if specifically pleaded the allegations contained in the paragraphs above.

- 5. This is a civil action seeking damages and injunctive relief for breach of contract and for wrongful use of a copyright.
  - 6. This Court has jurisdiction as a result of diversity of citizenship of the parties.
  - 7. Venue is proper for the above reasons.

#### STATEMENT OF CLAIM

- 8. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference as if specifically pleaded the allegations contained in the paragraphs above.
- 9. Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert, created "The Wendigo" story, characters, scenario and six pages of dialogue to produce for an anthology film.
- Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert enlisted volunteer actors and crew for the anthology film project.
- 11. Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, was one of the volunteer crew members, credited as Assistant Director and Cinematographer on the film project "The Wendigo."
- 12. Through messages on site Facebook with Plaintiff and Production Team (CFA Weiss, Mallory Holloway, Christopher Montero), Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, asked questions regarding Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert's script and volunteered to convert the script into shooting format with CFA Weiss.
- 13. Following production, Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, wrongfully filed sole copyright on the script and film and subsequently demanded a monetary amount from Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert to release the script and film to Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert, the rightful owner.

- 14. Defendant, Matthew A. Basham's conduct is causing, and unless immediately enjoined, will continue to cause, enormous and irreparable harm to said Plaintiff.
- 15. Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, does not have license, authorization, permission or consent to use the aforesaid Script and/or Film.
- 16. Plaintiff inter alia seeks monetary damages, as well as injunctive relief for Defendant's willful, intentional and purposeful use and exploitation of the Script and Film of "The Wendigo."

## COUNT I MISAPPROPRIATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS/ COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

- 17. Plaintiff incorporates herein by this reference each and every averment contained in paragraphs 1 through 16, inclusive.
- 18. Through his conduct averred herein, Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, has infringed Plaintiff's rights of the Copyright laws of the United States.
- 19. Defendant's acts of infringement/misappropriation of property rights are willful, intentional and purposeful, in disregard of and with indifference to Plaintiff's rights.
- 20. As a direct and proximate result of said infringement/misappropriation of property rights by Defendant. Plaintiff is entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial, including but not limited to his costs in the production of the project.
- 21. Plaintiff is also entitled to Defendant's profits attributable to the above infringement, including an accounting of and a constructive trust with respect to such profits.
  - 22. Plaintiff is further entitled to his attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to

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17 U.S.C. §505 and otherwise according to law.

23. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and conduct, Plaintiff has sustained and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury. Plaintiff is informed and believes and avers that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendant will continue to infringe Plaintiff's rights in the Infringed Script and Film of "The Wendigo." Plaintiff is entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendant's continuing infringing conduct.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert prays for Judgment against Defendant, Matthew A. Basham, as follows:

- 1. For damages in such amount as may be found, or as otherwise permitted by law;
- For an accounting of, and the imposition of constructive trust with respect to
   Defendant's profits attributable to his infringements of Plaintiff's copyright rights in the
   Infringed Script and Film of "The Wendigo."
- 3. For a preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting Defendant and any and all agents, servants, employees, officers, successors, licensees and assigns, and all persons acting in concert or participation with each or any of them, from continuing to infringe Plaintiff's rights to copyright in the Infringed Script and/or Film, "The Wendigo."
  - 4. For prejudgment interest according to law.
  - 5. For Plaintiff's attorney fees, costs, and disbursements in this action.
  - 6. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

(EMMERTUA (BASHAM) (USDIST COURT)

> Elias B. Landau, Esquire Attorney I. D. 12884 Attorney for Plaintiffs

### JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

### Case 2:17-cv-00568-JP Document 1 Filed 02/07/17 Pape 6 of 8 - (5)

The JS 44 civil coverage and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the public of initiating the civil docket sheet. ASE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

| purpose       | of initiating the civil d  | ocket sheet. ISEE INSTRUC  | TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF  | F THIS FORM.)  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ř. (a)        | PLAINTIFFS ALEXANDER H. F. I 540 Vailey Park Road Vailey Forge, Pennsyl  |  |  | DEFENDANTS MATTHEW A. BASHAM 273 MIKE DRIVE ELKTON, MARYLAND   |  |  |  |  |  |
| (b)           | County of Residence of First Listed Plaintif CHESTER (EXCEPT IN U.S. ILAINTIFF CASES)  |  |  | County of Residence of First Listed Defendant CECIL (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| (c)           | Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)   |  |  | NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)        |  |  |  |  |  |
| (0)           | ELIAS B. LANDAU,<br>P. O. BOX 443<br>BALA CYNWYD, PA<br>(610) 664-5306   | ESQUIRE  | •  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| II. BA        | SIS OF JURISD  | ICTION (Place an "X" tn  | One Bax Only)  | III. CITIZENSHIP O   | F PRINCIPAL PARTIES  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>□</b> 1 U. | S. Government 3 Federal Question Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)   |  |  | (For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF  Citizen of This State    DEF   DEF  |  |  |  |  |  |
| □2 U.         | S. Government Defendant    S. Government   S. Government   Defendant   Defendant   |  |  | Citizen of Another State   | of Business In Another State   |  |  |  |  |
|               |  |  |  | Citizen or Subject of a<br>Foreign Country   | 3 Soreign Nation   | □ 6 □ 6  |  |  |  |
|               |  | (Place an "X" in One Box O   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 110 In        | CONTRACT   | PERSONAL INJURY  | PERSONAL INJURY  | FORFEITURE/PENAL   |  | OTHER STATUTES  375 False Claims Act   |  |  |  |
| ☐ 120 M       |  | 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product  | 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  | of Property 21 USC 8   | 881 423 Withdrawal<br>28 USC 157   | 376 Qui Tam (31 USC<br>3729(a))  |  |  |  |
| ☐ 140 N       | egotiable Instrument<br>ecovery of Overpayment   | Liability  ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &  | 367 Health Care/<br>Pharmaceutical   |  | PROPERTY RIGHTS  | 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust  |  |  |  |
| &             | Enforcement of Judgment  | Stander  | Personal Injury  | /  | 820 Copyrights 830 Patent  | 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce   |  |  |  |
| ☐ 152 R       | ledicare Act<br>covery of Defaulted  | 330 Federal Employers' Liability   | Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal   |  | 840 Trademark  | 460 Deportation  |  |  |  |
|               | udent Loans<br>(xcludes Veterans)  | 340 Marine 345 Marine Product  | Injury Product<br>Liability  | LABOR  | SOCIAL SECURITY  | 470 Racketeer Influenced and<br>Corrupt Organizations  |  |  |  |
|               | ecovery of Overpayment<br>Veteran's Benefits   | Liability 350 Motor Vehicle  | PERSONAL PROPER?  ☐ 370 Other Fraud  | TY 710 Fair Labor Standards  | 861 HIA (1395ff)<br>862 Black Lung (923)   | 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV   |  |  |  |
| ☐ 160 St      | dekholders' Suits  | 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability  | 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal  | 720 Labor/Management<br>Relations  | 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI  | 850 Securities/Commodities/<br>Exchange  |  |  |  |
| ☐ 195 C       | ontract Product Liability  | 360 Other Personal   | Property Damage  | ☐740 Railway Labor Act   | 865 RSI (405(g))   | 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts  |  |  |  |
| □ 196 Fı      | ranchise   | Injury 362 Personal Injury -   | 385 Property Damage<br>Product Liability   | 751 Family and Medical<br>Leave Act  |  | 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information   |  |  |  |
| R             | BAL PROPERTY   | Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS   | PRISONER PETITION  | ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigatio  ☐ 791 Employee Retirement   |  | Act Act  |  |  |  |
|               | and Condemnation   | 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting  | Habeas Corpus:   | Income Security Act  | ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff<br>or Defendant)   | 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure   |  |  |  |
| ☐ 230 R       | ent Lease & Ejectment  | 442 Employment 443 Housing/  | 510 Motions to Vacate  |  | ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party<br>26 USC 7609   | Act/Review or Appeal of<br>Agency Decision   |  |  |  |
| 245 To        | ofts to Land<br>oft Product Liability  | Accommodations   | Sentence 530 General   |  |  | ☐ 950 Constitutionality of   |  |  |  |
| ☐ 290 A       | Il Other Real Property   | 445 Amer, w/Disabilities -<br>Employment   | 535 Death Penalty Other:   | IMMIGRATION   ☐ 462 Naturalization Applic  |  | State Statutes   |  |  |  |
|               |  | 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -<br>Other  | 540 Mandamus & Other   | r 465 Other Immigration Actions  |  |  |  |  |  |
|               |  | 448 Education  | 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2             | ale in the second  |  | Conditions of<br>Confinement   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| V. OF         | ICIN Plan on "V"   | Che Roy Only   | Commentent   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⊠1 þr         | RIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  Original   2 Removed from   3 Remanded from   4 Reinstated or   5 Transferred from   6 Multidistrict   8 Multidistrict   7 Oreceding   State Court   Appellate Court   8 Multidistrict   7 Copened   8 Another District   8 Litigation -   9 Litigation -   1 Copecify)   7 Transfer   8 Direct File |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|               |  | 17 HE CODE SE S  |  | filing (Do not cite Jurisdictiona  | il statutes unless diversity):   | Control of the Contro |  |  |  |
| VI. C         | AUSE OF ACTIO  | Brief description of ca  | use:   | thor on intellectual Property  | created and owned by Plaintiff   |  |  |  |  |
|               | RÉQUESTED IN<br>COMPLAINT:   | CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2   | IS A CLASS ACTION<br>3, F.R.Cv.P.  | DEMAND S Over \$7  | 5,000.00 CHECK YES only in<br>JURY DEMAND:   | if demanded in complaint:  |  |  |  |
| VIII.         | RELATED CASE   | 2(S)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|               | IF ANY   | (See instructions):  | JUDGE  | na da sumanananananananan kurus sumuma anta angan anta angan anta angan anta angan angan angan angan angan ang | DOCKET NUMBER  |  |  |  |  |
| DATE          |  | PI   | SIGNATORE OF ATTO  | ORNEY OF RECORD  |  | <u> </u>   |  |  |  |
| 02/06/2       |  | × Ulm  | O held,  | E24  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FOR OF        | FICE USE ONLY  PT # AM   | OUNT   | APPLYING IFP   | JUDG   | E MAG. JUD   | FEB -7 2017  |  |  |  |
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|             | THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the ditegory of the call to the proper of mineral to appropriate calendar.  |
|-------------|---|
|             | ess of Plaintiff: 504 Valley Park Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460  |
| Add         | ess of Defendant: 273 Mike Drive, Elkton, MD 21921  |
| Place       | of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Pennsylvania (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)  |
| Does        | this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% of more of its stock?  |
| j.          | tach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))  Yes No. 100   |
| Does        | this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?   |
|             | Number: Judge Date Terminated:  |
| Builderings | cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:  |
| I. Is       | this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?   |
|             | Yeso No XXX   |
|             | pes this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated tion in this court?                                       |
| geria.      | Yes□ Ngtaxx   |
| 1           | bes this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously  winated action in this court?  Yes \( \text{Ves} \)      |
| te          | minated action in this court?  Yes  Yes   |
| 4. Is       | this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  Yes   No   XX  |
|             | .: (Place 	✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  |
|             | ederal Question Cases:  B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:  Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  I. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts   |
|             | FELA 2.   Airplane Personal Injury  |
| 1           | Jones Act-Personal Injury  3. □ Assault, Defamation   |
|             | Antitrust 4.   Marine Personal Injury   |
| 5. c        | Patent 5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury   |
| 6. q        | Labor-Management Relations  6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)   |
|             | Civil Rights 7. Products Liability  |
|             | Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability — Asbestos  |
| 1           | Securities Act(s) Cases  9. # All)other Diversity Cases   |
| 1           | Social Security Review Cases (Please specify)   |
| 1           | All other Federal Question Cases  |
|             | (Please specify) Copyright Infringement/Misappropriation of Intellectual Property Rights  |
|             | ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category)  |
| _           | ELIAS B. LANDAU, ESQUIRE, counsel of record do hereby certify:  |
|             | Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of 00.00 exclusive of interest and costs: |
|             | Relief other than monetary damages is sought.   |
| DATE        | : 02/06/2017 Elias B. Landau, Esquire Un D Luly ESQ 12884   |
|             | Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.#  NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.   |
| i certi     | fy that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court  |
|             | as noted above.   |
| DATE        | : 02/06/2017 Elizs B. Landau, Esquire Llu & July & 12884  |
|             | Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.#  |
| U V. 0      | 09 (5/2012) FFR - / ZUI/  |

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

| CASE MANAGEMENT  | TRACK DESIGNA       | HONFORM   |      |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---------------------|-----------|------|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ALEXANDER H. F. EMMERT   | : CIVIL             | ACTION    |      |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| v.<br>MATTHEW A. BASHAM  | :<br>:<br>NO.       | 117       | 0568 | <del>)</del> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned. |                     |           |      |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CA   | ASE MANAGEMEN       | T TRACKS: |      |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (a) Habeas Cornus Cases brought under 28   | IISC 8 2241 through | gh & 2255 | (    | ١            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- (c) Arbitration Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
- (d) Asbestos Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.
- (e) Special Management Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)

(b) Social Security - Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health

and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.

(f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.

February 6, 2017
Date

Elias B. Landau, Esquire
Attorney-at-law

Plaintiff, Alexander H. F. Emmert
Attorney for

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 Telephone
 FAX Number
 E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

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